Vicar's Letter November 2026

Vicar's Letter November 2026 – 'God's dream for our lives'

Having deposited our one and only offspring at university recently, my wife and I are currently experiencing 'empty nest syndrome'. The dictionary defines this as 'a non-clinical period of grief, sadness, and loss of purpose that parents experience when their grown children leave the family home'.

The sadness and loss are certainly evident, along with a feeling that we are being left behind, but I find these feelings are tempered by the knowledge that he's moving on and doing what he wants to do with his life. It reminds me of a fabulous piece of parental advice I heard many years ago: that a parent's job is to give their children 'roots and wings'.

This got me thinking about what the spiritual writer Margaret Silf says about God's plan for our lives. She prefers to view it as God's dream for each of us, instead of God's will or plan, in the same way as we have dreams (and not plans or wills) for our children. We dream that they will live a life touched by love and reach their potential in whatever they do.

She goes on to reflect that God's dream will come to fruition and we can all play a small part in this; and that it's not a wishy-washy dream, but more a vision (rather like that of Martin Luther King), which is pressing and urgent for us to engage with and which doesn't come cheap. If we follow truth, integrity and justice then they become our guiding norm, and it is the same with God's dream where the guiding principle is love.

Margaret Silf offers several useful metaphors to help us try and comprehend God's dream for us, my favourites of which are water based. One is that we are swimming in a spiritual existence that we can't comprehend, like a fish swimming in an ocean - which sustains us, buffets us and can be dangerous in places – and that we can't live outside of the mystery of God's dream (as this would be like a fish trying

to live outside of the ocean), but we can be oblivious to it.

Another metaphor is that our spiritual journeys are like rivers, they disappear sometimes and can go underground, and we have blocks in our journey which we have to find a way around, these are periods of growth. There are waterfalls, which are traumas, but from which the water continues to flow; stresses of the rapids, swamps, where we can be bogged down and stagnate; and lagoons, where we are stuck in a comfort zone with no fresh water running through it. Tributaries flow into the river of our spiritual lives, some of which are giving and some polluting. But in the end the river widens and deepens and eventually always makes it to the ocean, as does ours and everyone else's spiritual journey.

As first year students, and everyone embarking on a next stage of their lives, will undoubtedly realise, new experiences are never comfortable. They can be likened to having our turn on a trapeze: the flight between the two bars being 'an uncomfortable and risky space, with all our doubts and fears, but the only place in which we can experience and actualise the growth we require – the only place where we are really empowered to choose our path.'

So, I shall leave you with those thoughts as I go and make a cup of tea in my 'empty nest', remembering that our son is moving on with his life, and that – just as soon as we get used to this new quieter less chaotic environment - he'll be home for Christmas!

Revd Jon Barwood jonbarwood@btinternet.com
Team Vicar, Vale and Cotswold Edge Phone: 07777 148880

Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson
The Granary, Main Street, Willersey Tel: 01386 852785
mobile 7979590826 Email: rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk

Willersey Parish Council Meeting 19 October 2026

Our meeting on Monday 19 October was the first meeting that we began and finished in the dark for some time, definitely signaling we are well into Autumn now.

Our open session, which is aimed at residents voicing their concerns which are not listed on the agenda, raised some traffic issues. Signs that are still in place, erected for Fish Hill roadworks on the A44, which state that Collin Lane is unsuitable for HGVs and by default direct them down Main Street and concerns about the unmarked new entrance on Saintbury Road as part of the industrial estate expansion. The lack of action on the build outs was also mentioned We have asked the Clerk to move forward on the issues discussed.

Before we turned to Willersey centric issues on our agenda, we heard from our District Councillors. They told us about the changes in the planning process that will significantly impact on their ability to represent our concerns about development and gives more power to Local Council's officers to make decisions without full input from elected councillor's. They also raised their concerns about discussions that are taking place about future County Structures coming under the umbrella of a South Western Authority that will see powers centered in Bristol.

The Parish Council is NOT party politically aligned, so our comments and discussion are focused on how we think national policy and elected bodies at District and County level affect our village. We expressed our concerns regarding both proposals, due to the potential loss of our village's ability to be recognised and heard.

Our agenda included discussion of our response to the Cotswold District Plan, which focused on our continued objection to more houses and concerns about lack of infrastructure including water, flooding and sewerage. We also continued to discuss Traffic issues, including the positive effect of the speed cameras and concerns regarding signage and need for hedges to be trimmed as appropriate.

The PC will be meeting with Mr Jenibert who is now running the garage and shop; continuing to work on the referendum on the paths around the village; getting the Jubilee Tree Christmas ready and the Tree of Light plans up and running; and spending time and money on the Cemetery to repair the surface following our dry summer. The issue of EV charging was also raised, we will be discussing this in next month's agenda.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12 November 2026 at 7pm in The Village Hall.

Jane Rintoul Chair -Willersey Parish Council



WI REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

Cutting, ironing, machining, hand stitching and overlocking. Yes, WI members were very busy on Saturday 3rd October when, using fabrics very generously donated by the **Cotswold Design Company** roadway, we were able to stitch together some gorgeous bags for a hospice for people to use to take home items belonging to their loved ones. Our endeavours were helped by those making some tasty soup for lunch. We are still hand finishing the final bags, but it looks like we will have a lovely collection to be able to donate.

At our monthly meeting organised by Maggie Topp and her team we were treated to a "Cheese and Whine" night. No, that is not a misspelling. We were not just *allowed* to 'whine', we were actively invited to do so. So, eating various varieties ranging from the usual cheddars to goat's cheese we sat down and thought about our moans. It is odd isn't it that when actually asked to think of something it doesn't quickly come to mind? However, in the end we scribbled down our ideas. Half parking on kerbs and pavements was popular for example, as we thought about those with pushchairs and wheelchairs trying to get past. Then after each 'whine" we were encouraged to eat some cheese. Cheese, we were told, is a superfood and has many health benefits. With that in mind and sipping the odd glass of wine (the other type) we tucked into crusty bread topped with brie and stilton until our stomachs were full. Wallace and Gromit would have been proud of our efforts.

Anne Nixon

Coming Up for WI in November

Next WI Meeting : will be on November 9th with our AGM when Anne Nixon will be giving a talk entitled "The Life of Coco Chanel"
Non-members welcome, £5 on the door

Jackie Jordan will have 'Cobalt' Christmas cards for you to buy.
WI Christmas Coffee Morning: Saturday 14th November in the Village Hall.

If you would like to contribute to "Caring Hands" with a food donation please contact Sandra Spensley, 6 Willow Road, Willersey.
And if you would love to hire crockery or other items please contact Mal Jelfs on maljelfs@icloud.com



Agnes

SUPPORTING YOU IN YOUR HOME WITH:

- Personal Care
- Companionship & Support
- Shopping
- Insured & CRB checked
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References available on request

07933 309 431
agnieszka.jen1972@gmail.com

Guided Walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Details of the walks available are described on the website (below**). Please check walk details carefully on the website, including whether booking is necessary.** https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk

Further walks may be published, so please check the website where up to date information is available.

CNL60: Gotherington and the slopes of Nottingham Hill

Tuesday 3rd November – Moderate 3.5hr 6.5ml

From the leaning tower of Woolstone, to Prescott Hill and the slopes of Nottingham Hill. If the weather is kind we should have good views of Bredon Hill & the Malverns. Bring a drink/snack.

Start 10.00am Shutters Inn, Gotherington.

OS Map ref: SO 959 297. W3W: take.joints.doctor

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. EASY - Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level); MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, others not allowed.

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, no others.

Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation and improvement work.

November is the month to remind yourself that you still have time to fulfill your New Year's resolutions……maybe !!

General Trivia Quiz

1) What type of beans are in canned baked beans?

2) In which country is the source of the River Amazon?

3) If you face North, how many degrees would you have to turn anticlockwise to face East?

4) Raymond Reddington features as a lead character in which American thriller series?

5) The River Amstel flows through which European capital city?

6) How many events form an Olympic heptathlon?

7) Which body organ is affected by glaucoma?

8) During a search for the explorer, David Livingstone, who famously said, “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?

9) What year was the first iPhone (iPhone 2G) released?

10) What does Doc Brown’s vanity plate (personalised plate) read in the “Back to the Future” movies?

11) Who was the leader of Germany during the First World War?

12) A “millennium” celebrates the anniversary of how many years?

13) Can you place the following curries in order of strength beginning with the strongest curry first: Madras, Korma, Phaal, Vindaloo?

14) Constantinople was the former name of which Turkish city?

15) The Starry Night is a famous painting by which Dutch impressionist?

16) Which sport is associated with Olympic gold medallist Ryan Lochte?

17) Which American drama series is an adaptation of George R R Martin’s fantasy novel series “A Song of Ice and Fire”?

18) Does the British noble title “Marquess” rank above or below an Earl?

19) Which body organ produces bile?

20) What sea is surrounded entirely by the Atlantic Ocean and is the only sea on Earth with no coastline or land boundary

Mike R

The Answers are on page 21

Six Months of Fundraising for St Peter’s Bells, An Update on Our Progress

What an extraordinary six months it has been! When we launched our appeal to repair the cracked bell at St Peter’s Church, we hoped the village would get behind us. What we hadn't anticipated was the remarkable generosity and community spirit that would follow. Quite simply, we have been overwhelmed by your support! Every event has been wonderfully supported, with generous donations from individuals, local businesses, clubs and societies, including some extraordinary personal gifts of between £500 - £1,000.

We have put on a fantastic variety of fundraising events including: The World Cup Sweepstake, organised by Lena Akerman and Chrissy Wainwright - the lucky winner even donated their prize money back to the Bell Fund! £905 raised.

An Evening with Libby Akerman brought music to the Bell Inn, where villagers gathered with camping chairs to enjoy Libby's wonderful singing and original compositions. We raised £444.

Pete G and the Magnitones, organised by Chrissy Wainwright and Rob Pitt at the Fleece Inn, treated everyone to a terrific evening of blues music and a raffle, raising over £1,000.
The Virtual Land's End to John O'Groats Walk, brilliantly conceived by Bob and Maggie Topp, encouraged villagers to walk ten miles each, collectively covering the length of Britain without leaving the local area! Together with an afternoon tea, this imaginative event raised an
impressive £1,749.

The Village Treasure Hunt, devised by Siriol and Steve Hunter, encouraged families, villagers and visitors to explore our beautiful village, raising £540.

Sponsored Quarter Peals, the brainchild of our Tower Captain, Robert Chadburn, proved a tremendous success. We initially worried that several hours of bellringing might test the village's patience, but the response was overwhelmingly positive! Special thanks to Sarah

Fletcher and her generous clients, whose contributions helped bring the total to an astonishing £3,190.
Our Indian Curry Night, organised by Sheila Nambier-Pitt and her wonderful helpers, treated 50 guests to a delicious feast and a thoroughly enjoyable evening, raising £1,375.
And the Grand Total So Far Is…OVER £13,000!
Thanks to these events, generous individual donations, support from businesses like Willersey Provisions and Hayman-Joyce in Broadway, Tower Tours and cake sales at Willersey Farmers Market and Mark Bridgman's boundary walk, we have achieved something truly remarkable in just six months. But perhaps the greatest achievement isn't simply the money raised. It's the way our village has come together.
To everyone who has donated, baked cakes, prepared food, sold tickets, washed dishes, volunteered or simply turned up to support us, a heartfelt thank you from all the bellringers of St Peter's Church.
We have more events planned before Christmas, kicking off with a Soup Lunch in the Village Hall on 7th November. Look out for details in the Parish Magazine and on our Facebook page, Fundraising for Bells at St Peter's Church, Willersey.
The Bellringers of St Peter's Church, Willersey

COTSWOLD VALE EMBROIDERY GROUP

Christmas did indeed begin at our October meeting. Rose supplied us all with white felt and dove templates to cut out and embroidery as we wished. Finished doves will be displayed at the Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 19th December in St Peter's Church.
We welcomed a new member to our group plus another lady showing interest in our work.
Rose's Christmas Channel Challenge awaits us for our November meeting. No clues as yet! Please do come along and see what our group get up to. We will make you very welcome. We are very varied in our levels of sewing. Next month Thursday November 5th
Honeybourne Village Hall 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Refreshments available from the Village Hall community cafe
Any more details from Gillian on 01386 852958

All Age Service in October

At the All Age Service our theme this month was Prayer and it is always pleasing when members of the congregation come up after the service and say how much it meant to them. Our aim when we plan the service is to try different things and we hadn't used the Taize chant for a while. It fitted into this service well by using it in a prayer section. It was more meaningful because the prayers have been written by members of the congregation. Carolyne's talk spoke of passages in the Bible where prayer is included. She spoke of the prayer hands drawing by Albrecht Durer and told the story of the two Durer brothers and how this painting came into being. She wondered how we prayed. Was it occasionally in bad times or did we pray more often. Jesus taught his disciples a simple rule using the acronym ACTS. Look this up and see what you discover and lastly thank you to everyone who helped to make this service a memorable one. Jennie Bond

Yew tree in the Churchyard

Sorry that I haven't reported on this lately. I have not had much luck with the person going to carry out this work so I have to start again. The money raised so far is £350. I'm not sure that it will pay for the deed but I will keep you informed of the next move. Jennie Bond

The inaugural Willersey Boundary Walk & Run – Sunday 11 October 2026



Welcomed by warm autumnal sunshine and flagged away by our very own Richard Bradley, the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. Fifty-five people participated, or helped, at the inaugural event.

With the choice of running or walking the 4.5-mile northern Parish Boundary route or taking on the 1-mile Village Circular walk.

It was a non-competitive event but for the record Nigel Foxall ran the 4.5-mile route in a time of just 47 minutes !!

The participants eagerly devoured tea and cakes in the Village Hall afterwards and raised over £250 for St Peters Floor and cracked Bell restoration funds.



Saint Peter's Church Services, November

Sunday 1 November	**10:00 am All Saints' Day, Morning Prayer**
3 Tuesday November	***4:00 pm Evensong (BCP)***
Remembrance Sunday 8 November	**10:30 am Remembrance Service and Act of Remembrance**
Sunday 15 November	**11:00 am All Age Worship**
Sunday 22 November	**10:00 am Morning Prayer**
Sunday 29 November	**11:00 am Benefice Service of Holy Communion At Saint Peter's, Dorsington**

Weekly Wednesday Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00 am.
Saint Peter's Welcome Café - every Thursday, 2 to 4:30pm

Church cleaning rota for November

November 7th and November 4th Sandy Barnes and Elizabeth Milne James
November 21st and November 29th Gillian Beale and Anne Embury

Thank you again to all helpers for giving up their time to clean our church. The key can picked up from Gillian at Florizel, Lower Green 01386 852958

Brass cleaning for November

Mal Jelfs and Jackie Jordan

Refreshments for Services in November

November 1st Gillian Beale
November 8th Remembrance Service
November 15th All Age Worship Team
November 22nd Pat and Robert Heming
November 29th Sandra Ann and Ken
December 6th Rachel Barker

Thank you to the Autumn Cleaners

A keen band of cleaners turned up on Saturday 10th of October armed with dusters, polish and Hoovers. Every corner of St Peter's was frisked for spiders, flies and cobwebs.
The slug still eludes us all! He/she reappeared through the night and the silver trail could be seen at Sunday's service.
Chairs, pews, brasses and hassocks had a thorough clean and even the pulpit was moved out much to the amazement of some.
Refreshments kept everyone going through the morning but at 12:30 it was a pleasure to sit and enjoy soup, cheese scones, cheese and fruit with friends.
Another plea for more helpers to go on the monthly rota. Can you spare an hour or two just once or twice a year to dust and polish and keep St Peter's looking cared for?
Thank you one and all. *Gillian*

WILLERSEY W. I.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

at

The Village Hall

Saturday November 14th 10.00 – 12.00

Any donations towards cakes, tombola, raffle, fancy goods, toys, books.
All much appreciated - ideal for Christmas gifts and a cuppa and chat!
See you there!

COME AND JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS HANDBELL WORKSHOP! 🎄

Fancy trying something new this Christmas? Come and discover the joy of **handbell ringing** in a fun, friendly and festive workshop in Willersey!

WHAT'S IN STORE?
In a relaxed **1.5-hour session**, you will:
Learn how to ring handbells
Discover how to read handbell music
Join a group to ring specially arranged Christmas tunes on up to 10 handbells
Enjoy a complimentary glass of mulled wine
Tuck into a delicious mince pie
Support the **Willersey Bell 4 Repair Appeal** at St Peter's Church

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!
The sessions will be led by Robert Chadburn, Tower Captain at St Peter's Church, Willersey, with help from fellow bellringers.
You'll learn several pieces of Christmas music, starting with simple arrangements and building up to more challenging tunes as you progress. You'll ring one or two handbells each, depending on how quickly you get the hang of it!
Whether you're a music lover, a complete beginner, or simply looking for something a little different to get you into the Christmas spirit, **everyone is welcome!**
CHOOSE YOUR SESSION Willersey Village Hall

Friday 27th November 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Saturday 28th November 9.30am – 11.00am 11.30am – 1.00pm
J
UST £20 PER PERSON
Your ticket includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, and **every penny of ticket proceeds will go towards the Bell 4 Repair Appeal at St Peter's Church.**

PLACES ARE VERY LIMITED!
With just **9 places available per session**, advance booking and payment are essential to secure your place. Don't leave it too late!
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE: Email Robert at **rchadburn1@gmail.com**
Come along, learn a new skill, enjoy some festive fun and help us get our bells back in ringing order!
W**e look forward to ringing with you!**

Treasure Hunt Results

Here are the results of the Treasure Hunt. We were very lucky to have had a beautiful, warm sunny day. 16 teams took part and one team, who were visiting Willersey for the afternoon, didn't want to miss out and joined in the fun! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.
There were a few extra games to play while teams were waiting to start or after they had finished. Beth Stranks got the closest guess for "Guess the weight of bell 3" game at 299kgs, the correct answer was 292kgs. Annie Payne guessed the correct location of the hidden bell rope on the Treasure Map - D1. Very welcome refreshments and cakes were served in St Peter's church.
A total of £540 was raised to help with the repair of Bell 4. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and to all the lovely helpers who gave up their afternoon to help run the event. *Siriol Hunter*

TEAM NAME	Start time	Finish time	Total time	Overall pos'n	Total Score
The Sunglasses Kids	13.56	15.19	1hr 23m	5	39
Jens Gone	14.00	15.34	1hr 34m	9	35
No Idea	14.04	15.47	1hr 43m	13	32
Bonkers Boaters	14.09	15.55	1hr 46m	15	27
The Windsor Gang	14.16	16.03	1hr 47m	***2***	42
The Fabulous Four	14.18	15.57	1hr 39m	11	33
The Triumphant Trio	14.21	15.53	1hr 32m	7	37

McNeil Maniacs	14.24	15.40	1hr 16m	10	33
The Coldicott Tribe	14.27	15.59	1hr 32m	***1***	43
The Best of The Best	14.30	15.46	1hr 16m	6	38
Gorgeous George	14.33	16.01	1hr 28m	***3***	41
Nacho & Taco	14.34	15.43	1hr 9m	14	29
Great Gargoyles	14.37	15.41	1hr 4m	8	36
Super Sleuthers	14.42	16.45	2hr 3m	12	33
Megan's Team	14.46	16.39	1hr 53	16	24
Last One In	15.35	16.42	1hr 7m	4	39

THE DECEMBER 2026/JANUARY 2027 VILLAGE NEWS

Copy for the December/January News must be received by Tuesday 17th November 2026 unless otherwise notified. Please send in any items of interest, thanks or notice of forthcoming events. Newsletter completion will start early the next day. Email them to willerseynews@gmail.com or phone Alan 01386 858601 or Bill 01386 858628. We aim to acknowledge emails received. The Church and Village News is published on the Internet at: www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm

To advertise in the magazine please contact Alan on above number or email agittings@talk21.com



Nature Box - Nesting Neighbours



With very few exceptions bird breeding by our avian neighbours that live alongside us, is a spring and summer activity. But it is timely to celebrate some of this year's successes and not too early to plan for next spring.

As is well understood, gardens have become increasingly important habitats for birds with less room for nature now provided by many farms; although it is important to say and to heartily thank many of our surrounding farms that do continue to value and nurture wildlife whilst turning a profit. Garden bird boxes have become one of the ways we can help our birds, and two particular accounts are worth sharing. One previously unused nest box success included a pair of robins safely fledging a young family; and in another garden a pair of migratory garden warblers from sub-Saharan Africa achieving similar success. Blue tits and great tits readily take to nest boxes, and more breeding success has been shared with plenty of young blue tits on the wing this autumn.

Not every nest box produces instant results. But sometimes lady luck gives a helping hand. A year ago, a trio of Willersey villagers decided to build and site a number of larger bird boxes for kestrels – a species that has been in decline of late. Five boxes were constructed with four erected on nearby farms with the fifth in a very large garden. Although 'Only for kestrels' was written in large print on the boxes many birds' reading skills are pretty weak, so even if a bird box is adopted there is no guarantee of who will take ownership. But one box came up trumps and four beautiful young kestrels safely fledged in mid June to help boost local numbers. One of life's little victories.

Each autumn a check is made of the bird boxes that have been installed by enthusiasts around the village in communal spaces. This year we've been able to see evidence that four were used by blue tits and great tits – with two in the church yard used for the very first time since being erected. Elsewhere a specifically designed barn owl box was occupied by barn owls and young owlets raised after a four year wait. Sometimes you have to be patient.

The swift nest boxes sited under the eaves at The Bell were not used by swifts this year, probably because house sparrows, that nest earlier, got there first. But migrating swifts are losing traditional nest sites at an alarming rate and are arguably more in need of a place to raise their young. So, there are tentative plans to modify the three boxes to try to keep them unused and left pristine and ready for the arrival of swifts in early May.

Interestingly, male great and blue tits will often choose a nest box in late autumn to use as a wintertime night roost; and in the spring seek to woo a female to check out their nest box. When this happens, the female will move around the box tapping both inside and outside – and you may have noticed this behaviour - to check for its suitability. In the birding world this has been called rather amusingly as 'putting up the shelves'.

If you are interested in popping up a nest box there is lots of help online. But boxes for blue and great tits with either a 25mm or 28mm entrance hole sited at about two metres off the ground and pointing in a northerly direction, away from too much sun, is often best. Then cross your fingers.

But birds often use our gardens as safe nesting sites if we have suitable hedges and shrubs – blackbirds, house sparrows and similar looking dunnocks especially. Such nests are often a beautiful work of art with a variety of grasses, moss and animal hair delicately woven together. How do they know how to do this? It's just amazing. Historically, there was a period where unwanted human hair was carefully disposed of as it was believed by some that human hair woven into a nest would cause the owner of the discarded locks to suffer painful headaches.

Robins in particular often nest in strange places: inside garden sheds, unused car engines, pockets of hung-up overalls; and in one reported case an ornamental jar in completely the wrong place and breaking all the 'rules' has successfully raising blue tit young for a 7th consecutive year. Other reported garden breeding success includes house sparrows, jackdaws, common crows and roof space breeding of swifts, swallows and house martins. Willersey really would be so much the poorer without acceptance and encouragement of our nesting neighbours.

Bob Topp

Bell 4 Repair Project Update

Work is progressing towards the repair of Bell 4, one of St Peter's six historic bells dating from 1712. The bell developed a crack suddenly in March this year and was taken out of use. The proposed specialist repair will conserve the original bell and enable it to return to service, restoring the complete ring of six for worship, celebrations and the enjoyment of the village.

Removing the bell is a substantial undertaking because the church's central tower provides no practicable internal lowering route. The proposal involves temporarily removing selected stonework and louvres from the west tower opening, then transferring the bell out, over the full length of the nave roof on a substantial, purpose-designed scaffold and lifting rail. John Taylor & Co will undertake removal and preparatory work, with specialist welding by Soundweld. The bell will then be returned, rehung and tested, and the tower opening masonry reinstated. Protection of the historic masonry and roof is central to the proposed approach.

Specialist contractors have been identified, quotations obtained, a project budget prepared and the faculty application submitted for the necessary church planning permissions. The current forecast cost is approximately £40,000, including contingency.

The ringers, their families, friends and supporters deserve warm thanks for an outstanding fundraising effort. **More than £13,000 has already been raised**, exceeding the ringers' original target, which was set at approximately half the initial forecast project cost. This achievement reflects considerable generosity, imagination and sustained hard work. It also provides valuable evidence to grant funders of the community's commitment to preserving its bells. With that original target surpassed, further fundraising can proceed at a more measured pace.

Grant preparation is well advanced, and a first grant award of £1,000 has already been secured. There are reasons for a degree of optimism, given the bells' heritage significance.

We hope that the repair work will take place in summer 2027. This allows for the permissions process, relevant grant rounds and specialist contractor availability. Meanwhile, the parish is making steady progress towards returning this much-loved historic bell to service

Robert McNeil-Wilson, Churchwarden



Father Christmas will be making a guest appearance at the Farmers Market on 13 December . Please reserve a place for your child at the Farmers Market on Sunday 15 November. £5 a child

Coming Soon

Ann and Sandra's Super Soup Fund Raiser

Saturday 7th November 12.00-3.00

at Willersey Village Hall

Just 50p entry on the door

With modestly priced Delicious homemade soup & roll Teas and coffees Raffle with high quality prizes

Tombola stall Homemade cake stall Gift stall

A splendid opportunity to mingle and catch up with friends and acquaintances.

" All profits to be generously donated to the repairs of the 4th bell at St Peter's Church."

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CHORAL SOCIETY

Mozart and Bach's sacred masterpieces come to Holy Trinity Church. The concert will be conducted by Music Director, Oliver Neal Parker. This performance takes place at 7.30pm on Saturday 14 November at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon. Tickets are available on the website www.stratfordchoral.org.uk or at the door on the night if seats are available. Tickets £25, or £23 if purchased online up to two weeks in advance. Tickets for 25 years or under and in full-time education are £10. Children 18 years or under admitted free.

There is now a shop at Willersey Garage.

Its opening hours are the same as the garage ie. Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Saturday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.
The range of items although already large will increase over the next few weeks and now includes daily newspapers
http://www.willersey.org/garage.htm

WILLERSEY HISTORY SOCIETY

On Monday 16 November Alan Gittings will give a talk entitled "Cars, Trains and Willersey". The event will take place in Willersey Village Hall and will begin at 7.00pm. An entrance fee of £2 will be requested.

The latter talk is the final event in the programme as it stands. After 14 months and 7 events, the present steering group will have exhausted their capacity to lay on future events. We have been given lots of ideas and will continue to need speakers etc, but we also need support in arranging a future programme, producing presentations etc, liaising with speakers, booking the hall and supporting activities on the day. So if you'd like to see the group continue and can render assistance in any way, please come forward. We will be very happy to support all who wish to join the group and help.

If you can assist with delivering or putting on a future event, please contact Jane, Hazel, Mike or David, or email the society at willerseyhistory@gmail.com. We've been delighted by the turnout from the village to previous events. Let's ensure Willersey History Society's continued activity into 2027 and beyond.

General Trivia Quiz Answers

1) Haricot Beans
2) Peru
3) 270 Degrees
4) The Blacklist
5) Amsterdam
6) Seven
7) Eye
8) Sir Henry Morton Stanley
9) 2007
10) OUTATIME
11) Wilhelm II
12) 1000 years
13) Phaal, Vindaloo, Madras,
14) Istanbul Korma
15) Vincent van Gogh
16) Swimming
17) Game of Thrones
18) Above
19) The liver
20) Sargasso Sea

The Quiz is on page 7

Willersey Farmers Market

Next Farmer's Market Sunday 15th November

Be There!

Q & A Meet Joanna Salmon



Name?	Elaine Osborne
Business Name	Cottage Cake and Preserves
When did you start your business?	Originally started in 80s by my aunt and uncle
Where are you based?	Evesham
What products do you sell?	Jams, marmalades, chutneys and pickles
What is your bestselling product at WFM?	Homemade Seville orange marmalade and hot chilli pickled shallots
What do you like most about WFM?	Everyone is always so friendly
Where were you born (optional)?	Under a gooseberry bush according to my husband
What's your favourite sport?	Athletics
What's your favourite film or TV programme?	Jaws
What's your favourite takeaway?	Thai
If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?	Tuscany or Provence
Red wine or white wine?	Yes, both please

Bitter, lager or cider?

Cider

What's your favourite season of the year?

Spring with Autumn a close second

What would you say is your greatest achievement?

I never look back at the past. I always look forward.

Well! We would never have guessed that!

I do most of my cooking and peeling of shallots whilst listening to Tragic Opera or to Abba

WILLERSEY WHISPERS

By Willersey Farmers Market's Roving Reporter

You can't have a Farmers Market without freshly baked bread can you ? It just wouldn't be a proper market.
But when I asked FM organizers what problems they had encountered in their first two and a half years of trading they unanimously said "BREAD"!
The problem seems to be unreliability and the fact that the bread, croissants etc have to be baked on Saturday night/Sunday morning. Nobody likes a stale croissant.
There have been four different bakers who have sold their bread in Willersey. Some have had excellent quality but can't commit to coming to every market and that's not ideal for regular customers. Others have become disillusioned on the odd occasion when the market hasn't been busy, and they have to take some of their bread home - that bread is wasted and money is lost. Others have obviously not baked the night before the market and organizers have not been happy with the quality on offer.
So, a solution had to be found. After a few drinks, and a lot of head scratching, FM organizers decided that they needed to sell their own bread and pastries. But who to buy from ? MOR Bakery in Chipping Campden was approached but were apathetic to the prospect of supplying a Farmers Market. On the other hand, Otis and Belle were enthusiastic, professional and couldn't have been more helpful. Willersey FM now buys from O&B at prices that allow them to sell at retail prices and make a profit.
Heather Lishman places the FM order (loaves, baguettes, focaccia, croissants, cinnamon buns, sausage rolls etc) early in the week and

delivery is taken at the village hall at 6.30 am on market day. O&B has a "Night Baker" so everything on offer has been baked on Saturday night / Sunday morning - it couldn't be fresher.
Derek Joys mans the O & B stand with Heather and the operation has been a big success. However, an unexpected hiccup was encountered last month when, with Heather and Derek both on holiday, Charles Nixon manfully stepped up to help but made the mistake of putting those hygienic rubber gloves on which were far too small and he couldn't get them off again until the following Wednesday.

So, there we are, another problem solved and customers enjoying fresh, great quality bread and pastries at Willersey FM. Hurrah !!
More revelations next month……..

WILLERSEY
WEDNESDAY CLUB

Willersey Wednesday Club had a talk from Bill Finnimore of Hereford and Worcester Fire Service following contact made at the Thursday afternoon cafe in St Peter's a few months ago. His topic was fire safety in the home, and he certainly knew his stuff. He engaged so well with the members that many of them signed up for a free home inspection by the Fire Service. Although temporarily nonplussed by someone who pointed out that most of us were in Gloucestershire, he decided that our WR post codes would be sufficient disguise! Our next meeting features Ray Bartlett from Cadbury...samples...who knows?
Richard.



November 11th

"On this day, we pause to remember the cost of freedom."

Paths Around Willersey Scheme

November 2026

At last, we have had some ‘proper’ rain. During the summer, many of the footpaths around Willersey have had cracks appear and these have opened up, presumably owing to the ground underneath drying and contracting. Hopefully this significant rain will help to close the cracks a little.

One member of the PAWS team has been campaigning, for repairs to be carried out to the path that runs alongside the Village Hall (Blind Lane). The summer has really taken its toll on this path, with cracks opening along, almost its entire length. Blind Lane is not included in the ‘Circular Route’ that the PAWS Group is trying to establish around Willersey. At present, it is however one of the main routes for people with mobility issues to get around the Village.

As we have previously highlighted; there is no proper footpath by the Methodist Church, and step close by and lack of dropped kerb at the Campden Lane / Main Street junction, makes passage for wheelchair and mobility scooter users almost impossible. We believe this is being investigated by the Parish Council. At present the alternative (other than using the road), is to take a significant detour and use Blind Lane. Sadly, Blind Lane is now in a terrible state.



The Village Hall Path (Blind Lane).

Another Group member has reported the state of the path, adjacent to the B4632, on the Broadway side of the new crossing point. This was done via the Highways ‘Fix My Street’ portal.

A particularly bad area of unevenness has been filled and repaired. Remember – anyone can

use this portal to report defects (see the link below).



If you have any views or issues about Willersey Village footpaths they can be reported at:

Willersey Parish Council: clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk (or telephone 01386 853635).

Gloucestershire County Highways: https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk

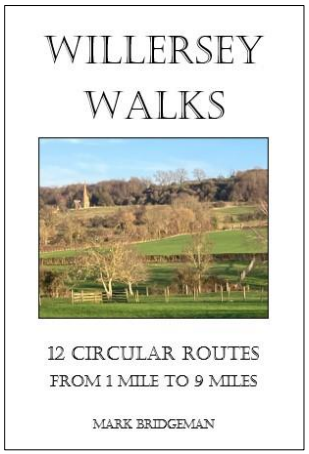
PAWS Group: willerseypaws@gmail.com

(Information contained in articles by the Group is believed to be accurate at the time the article is sent

for inclusion in the media).

Donald: Chairperson P.A.W.S. Group

Willersey Walks Book – on sale from 15 November



The twelve walks contained are centered on Willersey and reach out to neighbouring Villages including Saintbury, Broadway, Weston Sub-Edge, Childswickham, Bretforton, Honeybourne, Wickhamford and Badsey,

The walk distances vary from 1 mile to 9 miles catering for all ambitions and available time.

Surplus monies raised from the sales of this book will be donated equally between St Peter's Church Minton Floor and Bell Four restoration funds.

TO BE LAUNCHED AT WILLERSEY FARMER'S MARKET SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2026

£5-00 Cash or Card accepted

Coming soon: Willersey's Big Garden Bird Watch 2027 – January 27th-29th

If you haven't taken part before it's really easy. You can even join in with a mug of tea or something stronger in your hand. It just involves setting aside an hour to record the birds in your garden or another outside space and filling in the simple one sheet survey form at some convenient point during the last weekend of JANUARY. It's not a competition but a bit of local citizen science to see how our birds are doing in Willersey and perhaps compare with the national picture.

Look out for survey sheets towards the end of January which will be available for collection and return at the same locations from the Village Hall noticeboard or outside 19 Collin Close. If you like hearing about birds along with some gentle humour look for Sam and Ade Go Birding on channel 5 – with the catch up service giving access to their latest encounters plus series 1 – entertaining and informative.As we head towards the year end a sincere thank you to everybody who has shared their Willersey wildlife news and sightings this year.

To report local wildlife sightings please email
bob.topp@btinternet.com

Tree of Light



Every year during the festive season we deck the Jubilee Tree with lights. This tree forms a focal point for many villagers over the Christmas period and reminds us of years past and loved ones now gone. Any monies left after costs will go to support village charities. There is now an opportunity to support this annual festive decoration by sponsoring a light in memory of family or a friend. A voluntary donation of £5 for each person remembered for the year will help the village fund these lovely decorations. If you wish to, the name of your loved one will be recorded in a special Tree of Light Book of Remembrance for public display

To sponsor a light please fill in the form below by the 5th December and post this, along with your donation, to the Parish Council Office at the Village Hall, WR12 7PJ. Please make cheques payable to Willersey Parish Council and mark envelopes 'Tree of Light'.
Use a plain piece of paper if you don't want to tear out from your magazine.

Your Name	
Your Address	
The Name of the person being remembered	
Amount enclosed £	**£5 per person remembered**

August Bank- Holiday

Monday 31st August 2026

THE 18th WILLERSEY HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The Show took place in hot and balmy conditions. We received entries from 60 people and had well over 300 wonderful individual exhibits. During the afternoon we had in excess of 220 people through the doors viewing the efforts.

For the first time we had the privilege of being able to award three different trophies. Penny Burch generously donated a new trophy in memory of her husband Peter. Peter was a very enthusiastic entrant in the Men's Cake Class and so for the first time we were able to award a Trophy to this year's winner of the Men's Cake which was Mike Gilder.

Jennie Bond awarded the Peter Bond trophy for "Best Chilli Plant" to Sam Hallard who successfully defended his title with another stunning plant.

The overall Show Champion, who won the The Eric Beadle Cup for "Best in Show", was this year, for an incredible record equaling fifth time, awarded to Mike Barnes.

Many thanks to everybody who entered, judged, marshalled and helped at this years Show it was very much appreciated by everybody.



Recent and Future Village Sightings



Recent village news and observations from Pat, Jo, Tony & Holly, Christine, Pete, Sarah, Richard, Mike & Shirley, Tom, Helen & Derek, Nigel and Charlotte.

Well, at the time of writing there have been no reports of winter thrushes arriving on our patch – redwings and fieldfares – but fingers crossed as the weather becomes colder and berried shrubs and trees attract these two beauties to gardens. A stroll on Dover's Hill is often a good place to spot them as they head towards us at this time of autumn.

But muntjac, that little dog-faced deer that was released or escaped from Woburn Abbey and Whipsnade Zoo about a hundred or so years ago, that is now spread nationwide, keep popping up in people's gardens. They have a dog-like bark too that has been heard. One garden in particular has been adopted by a roe deer family as well as muntjac, but fortunately the owners are relaxed about the ever-increasing browse line on their hedges. Pheasants

too seem to appreciate this environment with one striking mutation dressed with totally black feathering and with rather fetching red eyeliner.

Several sightings of kites and a kestrel over the village are pleasing to hear about. Kestrel numbers are in decline nationally, but kite numbers are slowly increasing both locally and across the country. There have been several reports of a jay seen in village gardens. They are of course famed for promoting the growth of oak trees with forgotten acorns that they have stashed; but generally noted for being pretty shy birds so often only noticed as they fly away showing that prominent white rump.

Owls in general seem to have been less in evidence this autumn, although a pair of barn owls continues to roost very close to the village and have been seen at dusk on a number of occasions lately. November onwards is often a good time to listen out for

tawny owls as adults re-establish territories with several reports recently. *Bob Topp*

BREAKING NEWS ! !

WILLERSEY FARMERS MARKET

Saturday 15th November - Live music at 11 o'clock. Also, Reverend Hubert making his pre-Xmas visit with his Winter Gin Liqueur and Cocktails.

Thursday 26th November (7 - 9 pm) - Charity Gift Shopping Evening and Wayside Nurseries selling their Xmas Wreaths (always well made and great value). The perfect Xmas shopping opportunity.

Sunday13th December – 10.30 – 1.30 pm note later start special guest Father Christmas

PUBLIC NOTICES NOVEMBER 2026

TRAVEL SERVICES TELEPHONE NUMBERS

National Rail Enquiries 08457 48 49 50 or 03457 48 49 50
National Bus Traveline 0871 2002233
Hedgehog 01386 841849
N. N. Cresswell to Evesham 01386 48655 for route R4
Diamond Bus Stratford-upon-Avon 01527 813120 for route 1
Pulhams Coaches to Cheltenham 01451 820369 for route 606
Bus timetables for Gloucestershire are on the Willersey websiteat www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus

MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are 9th **and 23rd November 2026**. Please put all bins and bags out by 7.00am.
The Waste Hotline is 01285 623123. (Food waste every week.)
https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/check-your-collection-day/

Please note that the situation on these can change at any time. Just leave your bins out for a late collection.

PARISH COUNCIL The office is on the corner of the Village Hall. Open every Monday from 10.00am to noon. Outside these hours, please contact the clerk on 01386 853635 or email clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk

WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL To hire the hall please telephone Annie & Bill Payne on 01386 858368, or email contact@willerseyhall.co.uk or see https://www.willerseyhall.co.uk/

METHODIST COMMUNITY ROOM HIRE 01386 853306.

THE MOBILE POST OFFICE
Visits Willersey on Fridays at The Bell Inn 12:45 to 14:45.
Post Office inside and cash machine at Broadway Co-Op.

BROADWAY SURGERY is in Station Road WR12 7DE
It's telephone numbers are 01386 853651 and 01386 858136.

NEED TO TALK?

The Samaritans - Call 116 123 Childline 0800 1111

COTSWOLD FRIENDS Anybody who wishes to have transport for hospital ring the Cotswold Friends Help Centre: transport section 01608 651115. This telephone is manned from 09:30-15:30 Monday to Friday.

Contact numbers for Breakdown of Services & Police
Electric Power Faults - 0800 328 1111 or 105.
Gas Emergency – 0800 111 999 Floodline – 0845 988 1188.
Thames Water 0800 980 8800 Severn Trent. 0800 783 4444
British Telecom 0330 1234 150 Police Telephone 101 (999)
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